

REMARKS

Claims 2-11 and 13-14 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 2 and 11 are amended, and Claim 1 is canceled. Claim 2 is amended to place it into independent form.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. Brühlmeier, *et al.* (Brühlmeier). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Figure 3 of Brühlmeier shows a probe support 6 mounted on a radial fan 16 attached to the motor shaft, see also Brühlmeier at column 4, lines 10-12. Figure 6 of Brühlmeier shows the probe support 6 mounted on rings 26a, 26b which appear to clamp onto axial fan blades attached to the motor shaft. See also Brühlmeier at column 4, lines 41-46. Brühlmeier further discloses that a ring having ring halves 21a, 21b with inwardly directed mounting parts 29 can be fitted in place of removed axial fan blades, and also discloses that a similar arrangement can be clamped to the motor shaft when the shaft is not provided with a fan at a location where a probe support is desired. See Brühlmeier at Figure 6 and column 4, lines 46-54 and lines 55-63.

However, Brühlmeier fails to disclose or suggest mounting a probe support on the rotor. Accordingly, Brühlmeier fails to disclose a base unit that is secured to rotor caps installed at the ends of the rotor, as recited in independent Claim 2.

Regarding Claim 4 of the present application, Applicants note that Brühlmeier discloses that the probe 1 is attached to one of the cables 4, 5 and the cables 4, 5 form a closed loop with a pulley 23 driven by a motor 22 in the probe support 6 on

one side of the loop, and presumably a corresponding pulley in the probe support 7 on the other side of the loop. See for example Brühlmeier at Figure 5.

In contrast, Figures 2-3 and 5 of the present application show exemplary embodiments wherein the probe 35 is attached to a single tension cable 33, which winds synchronously on tension rollers 32 at each end of the cable 33. The cable 33 does not form a closed loop. This arrangement provides advantages, for example by allowing the same tension cable to be used on generators having different lengths, as noted for example in Claim 5.

However, Brühlmeier does not disclose or suggest an open-loop cable to move a probe, and does not appear to disclose or suggest tension rollers as shown in Figures 2-3 and 5 of the present application, on which the tension cable 33 is wound. Accordingly, Brühlmeier fails to disclose or suggest at least one inspection probe secured to a tension cable, which tension cable is secured to be able to roll on tension rollers installed on the end portions such that the inspection probe is displaceable in the axial direction by means of synchronous rotation of the two tension rollers, as recited in Claim 4.

Regarding Claim 6 of the present application, Applicants note that Brühlmeier fails to disclose or suggest mounting end portions of the probe base units on the rotor caps, and therefore fails to disclose or suggest Claim 6.

Regarding Claim 7 of the present application, Brühlmeier fails to disclose or suggest using belts to secure end portions of the base units to the rotor caps, as recited in Claim 7. Belts confer advantages because a single-size flexible belt can be effectively used on different diameter rotor caps to secure end portions of the base units.

Regarding Claim 10 of the present application, Applicants note that Brühlmeier apparently fails to disclose or suggest movement rollers of conical shape arranged on the end portions such that the end portions always have the tendency, on movement on the rotor caps, to move toward the interior of the machine air gap, as recited in Claim 10. See also numbered paragraph [0026] of the present application.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Brühlmeier fails to disclose or suggest Claims 2-11 and 13-14. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Brühlmeier is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration on the merits and prompt allowance are respectfully submitted.

In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: 
M. David Ream
Registration No. 35,333

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620